

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A cleaning method comprising:
a pre-cleaning step of performing at least immersion cleaning for a work using a hydrocarbon-based cleaning liquid containing a surfactant in a first bath; and
a post-cleaning step of performing at least immersion cleaning for the work processed in the pre-cleaning step using a hydrocarbon-based cleaning liquid containing no surfactant in a second bath;

C2 wherein, in the post-cleaning step, an operation of evacuating the inside of the second bath and an operation of exposing an interior of the second bath to atmospheric pressure air are repeatedly performed while the work is being immersed in the hydrocarbon-based cleaning liquid of the second bath.

2. (Previously presented) The cleaning method according to Claim 1 further including the step of inclining the work relative to a surface of the cleaning liquid in at least one of the pre-cleaning step and the post-cleaning step.

3. (Previously presented) The cleaning method according to Claim 1 further including the step of moving the work up and down within the cleaning liquid during at least one of the pre-cleaning step and the post-cleaning step.

4. (Original) The cleaning method according to Claim 1, further comprising a step of drying the work between the pre-cleaning step and the post-cleaning step.

5. (Previously presented) The cleaning method according to Claim 1, wherein the work comprises a liquid crystal panel.

6. (Previously presented) The cleaning method according to Claim 5, wherein the liquid crystal panels are placed adjacent to each other in the first and second baths.

7. - 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) A cleaning method comprising:

a pre-cleaning step including immersing an object to be cleaned in a first bath having a hydrocarbon based cleaning liquid containing a surfactant; and

C.2 a post-cleaning step including immersing the object to be cleaned from the pre-cleaning step in a second bath containing a hydrocarbon-based cleaning liquid containing no surfactant while repeatedly changing a pressure from atmospheric pressure to a reduced state of about 50 to 100 torr and back to atmospheric pressure in the second bath.

10. (Cancelled)